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STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
LANSING



STEVEN E. CHESTER
DIRECTOR

158506

October 27, 2003

Docket Management Facility
USCG-2003-14273 -43
U.S. Department of Transportation
Room PL-401
400 Seventh Street, SW
Washington, DC 20590-0001

To Whom it May Concern:

SUBJECT: Mandatory Ballast Water Management Program for U.S. Waters

The purpose of this letter is to comment on the U.S. Coast Guard proposal for mandatory ballast water management practices for all vessels equipped with ballast tanks bound for ports or places within the U.S. and/or entering U.S. waters. Although the proposed rules are already mandatory for the Great Lakes, protecting the rest of the coastal waters of the U.S. from introductions of aquatic invasive species is important to Michigan. New introductions of aquatic invasive species to any U.S. coastal fresh waters must be avoided because they could be transmitted to the Great Lakes by ships in coastal trade.

The State of Michigan supports the proposed rule as another step in the process leading to effective, mandatory ballast water controls that will protect the waters of the U.S. from new introductions of aquatic invasive species.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. If you have any questions regarding these comments, please contact Dr. Roger Eberhardt, Office of the Great Lakes, at 517-335-4227, or eberharr@michigan.gov.

Sincerely,

Steven E. Chester
Director
517-373-7917

cc: Mr. Stanley Pruss, Deputy Director, MDEQ
Mr. Ken DeBeaussaert, MDEQ
Mr. Richard Powers, MDEQ
Dr. Roger Eberhardt, MDEQ